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Attorney's Docket No.: 34874-094 / 2004P00137US

REMARKS

Upon entering the above amendments, claims 1-5 and 7-20 will be pending, with claims 1, 10, and 20 being independent. Claims 1, 10, and 14-15 have been amended, claim 6 has been canceled, and claims 19-20 have been added. No new matter has been added. Reconsideration and allowance of the above-referenced application are respectfully requested.

Rejections

Claims 1-3, 5, 10-12, and 14 stand rejected under section 102(e) as being anticipated by Matsubayashi et al. (US Pre-Grant Publication 2003/0101177; "Matsubayashi 177"). Claims 4 and 13 stand rejected under section 103(a) as being unpatentable over Matsubayashi 177 in view of Ford et al. (US Pre-Grant Publication 2003/0195877; "Ford"). Claims 7-9 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Matsubayashi 177 in view of Matsubayashi et al. (US Pre-Grant Publication 2003/0065658; "Matsubayashi 658"). These rejections are traversed.

Claim 1

Claim 1 has been amended to include subject matter similar to the subject matter of claim 6. As the subject matter of claim 6 was indicated as being objected to for depending on a rejected claim, but otherwise allowable, claim 1, as amended, should be allowed.

Claim 10

Claim 10 includes subject matter not disclosed in the references; thus, claim 10 should be allowed.

Claim 10 has been amended to recite, in part, "form a reduced query document based on ranks of terms solely in the specified document without taking into account occurrence of the terms in other documents." This may advantageously allow for the reduced query document to be generated, regardless of other documents or other statistics.

For example, in contrast to claim 10's ranks based on ranks of terms solely in the specified document without taking into account occurrence of the terms in other documents, in Matsubayashi 177, weights are based on a whole database of documents. For example, paragraph 109 of Matsubayashi 177 discloses "the weight calculated by using the statistical information of the whole document database." In contrast to the weights of Matsubayashi 177, the ranks of independent claim 10 need not be tied to database statistics or documents other than a specified document. In fact, due to Matsubayashi 177's reliance on a database and other

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statistics, Matsubayashi appears to teach away from ranks based on terms solely in the specified document without taking into account occurrence of the terms in other documents. E.g., ¶ 44-45, 52, 79, 104-108. Thus, claim 10 includes features not disclosed in Matsubayashi 177. As these features are also not disclosed in Ford or Matsubayashi 658, claim 10 should be allowed.

As claims 2-5 and 7-9, and 11-19 depend directly, or indirectly, on independent claims 1 and 10, respectively, these claims should also be allowed for at least the reasons given above.

Claim 20

Claim 20 has been added. Claim 20 includes features similar to claim 6, which was indicated as being objected to for depending on a rejected claim, but otherwise allowable. Thus, claim 20 should be allowed.

CONCLUSION

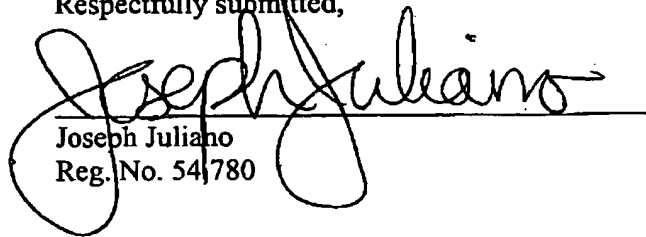
It is believed that all of the pending claims have been addressed in this paper. However, failure to address a specific rejection, issue or comment, does not signify agreement with or concession of that rejection, issue or comment. In addition, because the arguments made above are not intended to be exhaustive, there may be reasons for patentability of any or all pending claims (or other claims) that have not been expressed. Finally, nothing in this paper should be construed as an intent to concede any issue with regard to any claim, except as specifically stated in this paper, and the amendment of any claim does not necessarily signify concession of unpatentability of the claim prior to its amendment. Applicant asks that all claims be allowed.

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If there are any questions regarding these amendments and remarks, the Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned at the telephone number provided below. The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees that may be due, or credit any overpayment of same, to Deposit Account No. 50-0311, Reference No. 34874-094.

Respectfully submitted,

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